

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MONTEV 05784 221123Z

ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 HA-05 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 /066 W

-----124379 221146Z /14

P R 221035Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO AMCONSUL SAO PAULO PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 5476

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 5784

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PINT, BR, UY

SUBJ: HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF FLAVIO TAVARES

REF: A. SAO PAULO 3153 B. BENTLEY-YOULE TELCON

DEC 16, 1977

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. DURING PRESENT VISIT TO MONTEVIDEO, (WHICH BEGAN DEC. 14), TAVARES LAWYER GERSON MENDONCZ, "O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO" DIRECTOR JULIO FERREIRA DE MEZQUITA, AND INTERNATIONAL EDITOR JOSE MAYRINK HAVE BEEN COOLLY RECEIVED BY THE GOU AND INITIALLY, THE BRAZILIAN EMBASSY. THEY HAVE FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF THE "GOOD NEWS" REGARDING AN EARLY RELEASE FOR TAVARES THEY CLAIM WAS PROMISED BY ITAMARATY SPOKESMAN LAMPREIA NOR, IN FACT, ANY MOVEMENT IN THE CASE.  
END SUMMARY.

2. THE VISITORS BEGAN WITH AN UNSATISFACTORY INTERVIEW WITH FOREIGN MINISTER DIRECTOR OF FOREIGN POLICY ALVARO ALVAREZ ON MORNING OF DEC. 15. ALVAREZ REPORTEDLY INFORMED THEM BLUNTLY THAT PRESSURES WERE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE AND STATED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF JOURNALISTIC "INTERVENTION", TAVARES WOULD HAVE BEEN FREED "LONG AGO". WITH GREAT RELUCTANCE,  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 MONTEV 05784 221123Z

ALVAREZ INDICATED HE WOULD SEE WHAT COULD BE DONE TO ARRANGE FOR THE VISITORS TO SEE TAVARES, WHILE CLEARLY EXPRESSING HIS EXASPERATION WITH THE WHOLE MATTER. LATER THE SAME DAY, ALVAREZ' AIDE INFORMED THE VISITORS THAT THEY COULD SEE TAVARES ON THE EVENING OF THE 16TH.

3. ALSO ON THE 15TH THE VISITORS WERE RECEIVED BY BRAZILIAN

AMBASSADOR CORREA DO LABO, WHO REPORTEDLY INFORMED THEM THAT HE CONSIDERED THE CASE A "CONSULAR MATTER" AND HAD NO INSTRUCTIONS TO TAKE ANY ACTIONS ON TAVARES' BEHALF. LABO INDICATED READINESS TO SEND THE CONSUL TO MEET WITH TAVARES PRIOR TO THE VISITORS' APPOINTMENT WITH HIM, BUT MADE NO OTHER COMMITMENT AT THAT TIME. THIS WAS, IN FACT, THE FIRST CONTACT THAT THOSE ACTING FOR TAVARES HAVE EVER HAD WITH LABO AND THEY ATTRIBUTED THE CONTACT TO THE PRESENCE OF MEZQUITA, WHO IS MEMBER OF SIP COMMITTEE ON LIBERTY OF EXPRESION AND WHOSE FAMILY HAS ACCESS TO PRESIDENT GEISEL. ACCORDING TO MENDONCZ, AMBASSADOR SUBSEQUENTLY AGREED TO SEEK FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS FROM BRASILIA RE TAVARES CASE.

4. EVENING OF 16TH, MENDONCA, MAYRINK AND MEZQUITA MET WITH TAVARES AT CENTRAL PRISON, ACCOMPANIED BY ALUIZIO MACHADO, O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO CORRESPONDENT WHO HELD PUBLIC INTERVIEW WITH TAVARES DEC. 12 AT INSTANCE OF FONMIN ROVIRA (MONTEVIDEO 5733). THIS LATEST INTERVIEW WAS ALSO ATTENDED BY LOCAL PRESS BUT WAS REPORTED, INCONSPICUOUSLY, ONLY BY OPPOSITIONIST EL DIA. TAVARES REPEATED PREVIOUS PUBLIC LINE, INDICATING HUMANE TREATMENT BY LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND REITERATING INNOCENSE OF ESPIONAGE CHARGES. ACCORDING TO MENDONCZ, HE ALSO MANAGED A BRIEF UNMONITORED CONVERSATION WITH HIS BRAZILIAN VISITORS, URGING THEM NOT TO FORGET "THE FIRST 19 DAYS" OF HIS IMPRISONMENT  
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 MONTEV 05784 221123Z

(WHEN HE WAS ALLEGEDLY MISTREATED). MACHADO ASKED TAVARES OPENLY -- AND THIS WAS PICKED UP IN EL DIA REPORT -- WHETHER LATTER WAS AWARE THAT SENATOR PETRONIO PORTELLA, PRESIDENT OF BRAZILIAN CONGRESS, HAD CALLED IN URUGUAYAN AMBASSADOR IN BRASILIA, GEN. EDUARDO ZUBIA, TO INTERCEDE FOR HIM. IN SIMILAR MANNER, WILLINGNESS OF PORTUGUESE, CONFIRMED BY PRESIDENT EANES, TO RECEIVE TAVARES AS POLITICAL EXILE WAS ALSO SURFACED PUBLICLY. EL DIA PIECE CLOSED WITH INTERVIEW OF VISITING BRAZILIANS IN WHICH MEZQUITA TOOD OCCASION TO UNDERLINE HIS SIP CONNECTION.

5. VISITORS MET WITH POLOFFS DEC. 15, 16, AND 19 TO RECOUNT ABOVE EVENTS, VENT THEIR FRUSTRATION, AND SEEK GUIDANCE ON TACTICS. POLOFFS INDICATED THAT THEIR RELIANCE ON BRAZILIAN DIPLOMATIC CHANNELS APPEARED THE ONLY FEASIBLE ALTERNATIVE IN THE PRESENT SITUATION, COUNSELING PATIENCE AND AGAINST PREMATURE CONCLUSIONS THAT LAMPREIA HAD MISREPRESENTED GOB POSITION. POLOFFS ALSO UNDERLINED EXTREME GOU SENSITIVITY TO PRESS PRESSURES FROM ANY SOURCE, POINTING TO THE NEED TO CONSIDER A POSSIBLY COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE GOU REACTION TO A RENEWED PRESS CAMPAIGN IN BRAZIL. IN RESPONSE, THE VISITORS INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD REDOUBLE THEIR QUIET

EFFORTS WITH THE GOB AND THINK OF GOING PUBLIC ONLY AS A  
LAST RESORT, IF THE GEISEL VISIT DATE WERE APPROACHING WITH  
NO MOVEMENT IN THE CASE. THEY WERE PARTICULARLY IMPRESSED  
BY INTERVENTION OF SENATOR PORTELA WHO, THEY FELT, WOULD  
NOT HAVE ACTED WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS FROM, OR AT LEAST  
APPROVAL OF, PRESIDENT GEISEL. NO REQUEST FOR A  
U.S. DEMARCHE ON TAVARES' BEHALF WAS MADE.  
PEZZULLO

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** HUMAN RIGHTS, PRISONERS WELFARE  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Sent Date:** 22-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977MONTEV05784  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D770477-0801  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** MONTEVIDEO  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1977/newtext/t19771226/aaaaavzw.tel  
**Line Count:** 124  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
**Litigation Codes:**  
**Litigation History:**  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Message ID:** 941449fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION ARA  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 3  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 SAO PAULO 3153  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 08-Dec-2004 12:00:00 am  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 147173  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** HUMAN RIGHTS: CASE OF FLAVIO TAVARES  
**TAGS:** SHUM, PINT, BR, UY, (TAVARES, FLAVIO)  
**To:** SAO PAULO  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/941449fe-c188-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009